



STATE OF VERMONT
Department of Education
120 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

CLARIFICATION REGARDING GOVERNANCE MEETINGS

MONTPELIER – There have been some recent news reports regarding the public Education Governance Meetings that have led to some misunderstanding on the format and focus of these meetings.

One piece that has caused confusion among the public is the statement that Commissioner Cate himself is hosting the thirty meetings across the state. This is not true. As stated in our press release, the meetings are being facilitated by Robin Scheu and George Appenzeller.

Commissioner Cate will not be attending the meetings.

“I am happy to attend all thirty meetings, but I am concerned that my presence would detract from the important conversations I want Vermonters to be having about education governance,” said Cate.

Secondly, the meetings are designed to discuss education governance, as it relates to the structure of supervisory unions. By discussing “consolidation”, **we are referring to consolidation of the governance structures of the supervisory unions and school boards, not the closing of schools** or consolidation of buildings.

Following the first meeting, held Tuesday, January 16 at Oxbow Union High School, we plan to adjust the format and methodology of gathering information at these meetings. The meetings will start with an introduction by Commissioner Cate via video, describing the current education governance structure and the advantages and disadvantages to that system. In the video, he will briefly describe a model as he outlined in his white paper, released in May 2006. The meetings will the focus on the attendees’ thoughts on the advantages and disadvantages to their local system, and their reactions to the education governance model outlined in the white paper.

For that reason, the meeting in Hartford, originally scheduled for January 22, will be rescheduled. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, January 24 in Enosburg Falls.

For more information on this education governance public engagement process, including a complete schedule of meetings and materials, visit <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/governance.html>. To make public comment, please send messages to governance@list.education.state.vt.us, via FAX at (802) 828-3140 or via postal mail at Education Governance Public Comment, c/o Jill Remick, Department of Education, 120 State Street, 4th Floor, Montpelier, VT 05620-2501.

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